

SHORT TAKES

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE OUR SURVEY! (PAGE 15)

For a complete list of events happening in Maryland State Parks, visit dnr.maryland.gov/calendar

On the Cover: Virginia Bluebells



Alec Hasbard

virginica) is one of the first wildflowers to appear in winter's wake.

You can identify this native plant before it blooms by its cool green, baby spinach-like leaves. The flowers consist of five fused petals that create a downward trumpet-like bloom. The purple buds occur in clusters along the stem, reaching a maximum height of 2 feet.

Virginia bluebells are *ephemeral* — meaning they only bloom once for a short period of time — so get out and start searching early this spring! They attract butterflies and bumblebees as pollinators, making them a key species for insect viewing.

Remember, these wildflowers call the park home, so please leave them where you find them and do not take any flowers with you.

dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife

Virginia bluebells along Rock Creek in Bethesda
Especially abundant west of the picnic area along the Red Trail at Susquehanna State Park, the Virginia bluebell (*Mertensia*



DNR

2015 Photo Contest
accepting entries
through August 31

ENTER ONLINE
OR BY MAIL

Learn how at
dnr.maryland.gov/photocontest

Spring into Park Endurance Races

Looking forward to warm spring days? The team at Wye Island Natural Resources Management Area in Queen Anne's County sure is! Sign up now for the 4th Annual Wye-Tri Adventure Race scheduled for Sat., May 2, 2015.

Open to anyone 14 years of age or older in good physical health, the race begins with a 2-mile trail run, continues with a .75-mile paddle and concludes with a 6.5-

mile mountain bike ride. Each participant will receive a souvenir event shirt.

Kayaks and canoes of all sizes are permitted, and a limited number of vessels will be available to rent for an additional \$5. Life jackets are mandatory.

The Wye-Tri will be held rain or shine but may be delayed or interrupted in the event of extreme fog, wind or thunderstorms. Participants must have

their kayaks and bicycles in place by 7:30 a.m. and attend a pre-race meeting at 7:45. The race begins promptly at 8:00.

Just a few weeks later on June 6, Tuckahoe State Park hosts its annual Triathlon. A reduced registration rate is available for participants who sign up for both events.

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands



DNR

Tuckahoe Triathlon

CATEGORIES

Male over 40, Male under 40,
Female over 40, Female under 40,
Two Person Teams (16 years and
older), and Adult/Youth

SIGN-UP COSTS

\$20 per person, \$30 per team

Call Park offices for more information.

Wye Island 410-827-7577

Tuckahoe 410-820-1668

Mapping Made Easy

Maryland's Environmental Resource and Land Information Network — MERLIN — now hosts the official DNR Trail Atlas, which includes public land trails, water trails and access sites. The Atlas layers reflect the most up-to-date and comprehensive trail data available for

mdmerlin.net

the entire state, and will continue to receive real-time updates to provide users with the most accurate and complete information. Planners and citizens can use this online resource to make customized maps for recreational or planning purposes.



Stephen Badger

Swallow Falls State Park

Seafood Nicole



DNR

Serves 4-6

Ingredients

3 pounds rockfish
48 littleneck clams
½ cup Italian olive oil
2 large cloves garlic, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
1 tablespoon oregano
2 teaspoons chopped parsley
salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup dry Vermouth
1 10 oz can Italian Plum tomatoes, crushed

Instructions

Wash and dry fish. Cut fillets into thirds or quarters. Scrub clam shells thoroughly. In a 6-quart saucepan, over medium heat, warm oil until hot. Add garlic, onion, oregano, parsley, salt and pepper. Cook until onions are brown. Add Vermouth and tomato. Cook for 45 minutes, stirring frequently. Add fish and clams. Simmer for about 45 minutes.

seafood.maryland.gov

Be ready for the unexpected.

Wear It!

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK
MAY 16-22, 2015

- ☒ Check weather forecast
- ☒ Life jacket
- ☒ Paddle
- ☒ Fun trip
- ☒ Return home to loved ones

WEAR IT!

This message brought to you by the National Safe Boating Council.
safeboatingcampaign.com

Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.